House REPUBLICAN Conference

Legislative Digest

Week of May 24, 1999 | Vol. XXVIII, #15, May 21, 1999

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

Monday, May 24

House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)

**** Seven Suspensions**

Tuesday, May 25

House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour and 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

**** One Suspension**

Wednesday and Thursday, May 26-27

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

⇨To be published in a future issue of the *Legislative Digest*

Friday, May 28

No Votes Expected

Brian Fortune: *Managing Editor*

Kevin Smith: *Senior Legislative Analyst*

Mary Rose Baker, Scott Galupo,
Brendan Shields, & Heather Valentine:
Legislative Analysts

House
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Legislative
Digest

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District of Columbia College Access Act

H.R. 974

Committee on Government Reform
H.Rept. 106-___
Introduced by Mr. Davis (VA) *et al*. on March 4, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 974 under suspension of the rules on Monday, May 24, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 974 establishes a program to allow high school graduates of the District of Columbia to pay in-state tuition rates upon admission to state colleges outside of D.C. Specifically, the bill establishes the District of Columbia College Access Scholarship program. The fund is authorized to accept federal appropriations, gifts, bequests, and interest and must be used solely to award scholarships, with not more than 10 percent applied towards administration costs. The bill exempts the fund from all federal, state, local, and gift taxes. The bill does not in any way alter the admissions policies or standards of any university.

The bill directs graduates seeking scholarships under the program to submit an application to the mayor. All eligible students shall receive an amount equal to the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition for an eligible college outside of the District of Columbia, not to exceed $10,000 per academic year. Eligible applicants for private institutions may receive an amount to be determined by the mayor, but not to exceed $3,000 per academic year. Should the amount available in the fund be insufficient to pay the determined scholarship amounts for all recipients, the amounts for each scholarship will be reduced proportionally.

The mayor of D.C. will administer the fund in consultation with the Secretary of Education and (1) determine the amount available for awarding scholarships, (2) invest the portion of the fund not used for scholarships, (3) make applications for scholarships available no later than October 1 of the preceding academic year, (4) set regulations for refunds to the fund should a recipient withdraw from an institution, and (5) enter into an agreement with a nongovernmental agency to administer the fund if the mayor deems it cost-effective and appropriate.

To qualify under the scholarship program, an applicant must:

* have been a resident of the District of Columbia for no less than 12 consecutive months preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is sought;

* begin undergraduate study within three calendar years of graduating from secondary school or receiving the recognized equivalent of a secondary school diploma, excluding any service in the U.S. Armed Forces, Peace Corps, or Americorps;

* be enrolled or accepted in a degree, certificate, or other program leading to a recognized educational credential at an eligible institution;

* be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;

* not be incarcerated;

* not owe a refund on grants previously received, and not be in default on any loan made, insured, or guaranteed; and

* not have completed his or her first year of undergraduate baccalaureate course of study.

The bill authorizes such funds as necessary to carry out the act for FYs 2000-2005. The bill also authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the University of the District of Columbia to enhance educational opportunities in FYs 2000-2005.

Background:

Currently, approximately 2,000 high school seniors live in the District of Columbia, plus hundreds more who attend private, charter, or parochial schools. Because the District of Columbia is not a state, D.C. graduates must pay out-of-state tuition rates when attending any public college or university other than the University of the District of Columbia.

Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The Government Reform Committee ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

Mary Rose Baker, 226-6871

Bills Designating Federal Post Office Buildings

H.R. 1251, H.R. 1377, H.R. 197, H.R. 100, and H.R. 1191

Committee on Government Reform
No Reports Filed

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider the following five bills on Monday, May 24, 1999, under suspension of the rules. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 1251 designates the post office located on 8850 South 700 East in Sandy, Utah, as the "Noal Cushing Bateman Post Office Building." Mr. Bateman was mayor of Sandy for six years and served on the city council for 20 years. The bill was introduced by Mr. Cook and was reported by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

H.R. 1377 designates the post office on 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building." Mr. Buchanan served as an Alderman for Chicago's 10th Ward until his retirement in April 1999. He is presently on the Board of Directors of the Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce, South Chicago YMCA, SouthEast Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center, and Trinity Hospital Governing Council. The bill was introduced by Mr. Weller and was reported by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

H.R. 197 designates the post office on 410 North 6th Street in Garden City, Kansas, as the "Clifford R. Hope Post Office." Congressman Hope represented the 7th district of Kansas from 1927 to 1957. During his tenure, he served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee and was an advocate of the defense and military programs concerning World War II. The bill was introduced by Mr. Moran (KS) and was reported by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

H.R. 100 names three federal post office buildings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The bill designates the post office located at 2601 North 16th Street as the "Roxanne H. Jones Post Office Building." Jones was the first African-American woman elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 1984. She was reelected to the Senate twice before her death in 1997. The bill also designates the post office located at 5300 West Jefferson Street as the "Freeman Hankins Post Office Building." Hankins served in the Pennsylvania State Senate from 1967 until his retirement in 1989 and was on the boards of the Pennsylvania Higher Development Agency, Lincoln University, and the Mercy Douglas Corporation. Finally, the bill designates the post office located at 2037 Chestnut Street as the "Max Weiner Post Office Building." Weiner was the founder of the Consumers Education and Protective Association and the Independent Consumer Party. The bill was introduced by Mr. Fattah and was reported by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

H.R. 1191 names four post offices located in Chicago, Illinois. The bill designates the post office located on 433 West Harrison Street as the "Cardiss Collins Post Office Building." Mrs. Collins represented the

7th district of Illinois and was the first African-American woman from her state to serve on Congress. During her tenure, she was active in government reform and commerce.

The bill also designates the post office located on 2302 South Pulaski Street as the "Otis Grant Collins Post Office Building." Mr. Collins was a representative in the Illinois General Assembly for four terms and was an activist against insurance redlining, when insurance companies discriminate against people because of there ethnicity, health, or monetary situation.

The measure designates the post office located on 4222 West Madison Street as the "Mary Alice (Ma) Henry Post Office Building." Mrs. Henry was a community activist of the care clinic in Garfield Hospital, now known as the Mary Alice (Ma) Henry Family Health Center. The clinic presently helps more than 20,000 people a year.

Finally, the bill designates the post office located at 50001 West Division Street as the "Robert LeFlore, Jr. Post Office Building." Mr. LeFlore served in the Illinois General Assembly and championed causes concerning senior citizens and children. The bill was introduced by Mr. Davis (IL) and was reported by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

Heather Valentine, 226-7860

Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act

H.R. 441

Committee on the Judiciary
H.Rept. 106-135
Introduced by Mr. Rush and Mr. Hyde on February 2, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 441 under suspension of the rules on Monday, May 24, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 441 amends the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act to create an "H-1C" temporary visa program for registered nurses. The new program will be similar to the expired H-1A program, which granted special temporary work visas for foreign nurses to work in poor rural and urban areas. Specifically, the measure authorizes the Labor Secretary to grant 500 temporary non-immigrant visas each year to allow foreign nurses to work in understaffed offices. To assuage the concerns of those who contend that the program eliminates jobs for American nurses, the bill requires hospitals to prove that they have exhausted all attempts to recruit and retain domestic nurses before they may participate in the H-1C program.

To qualify for the H-1C program, foreign nurses must (1) have obtained a full and unrestricted license to practice professional nursing in the country where he or she received nursing education; (2) have passed an appropriate examination or have a license under state law; and (3) be fully qualified and eligible under the laws governing the hospital where he or she intends to work.

The H-1A temporary visa program was created under the 1989 Immigration Nursing Relief Act (INRA; *P.L. 101-238*), which expired in September 1995. The INRA was initiated in response to a nationwide nursing shortage that threatened to disrupt the delivery of services to patients in some U.S. hospitals. Such a pervasive shortage does not exist today; however, some hospitals—those that serve poor and rural areas, largely—are still having difficulty attracting American nurses. For example, the St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center, located on the south side of Chicago, nearly had to close its doors because of a lack of registered nurses. The H-1C program is narrowly tailored to address the needs of health care institutions with these unique needs.

Costs/Committee Action:

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 441 will have a negligible impact on the federal budget. The bill affects direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures apply; however, CBO estimates that the amounts involved will be substantially less than $500,000 a year.

The Judiciary Committee reported the bill by voice vote on May 12, 1999.

Scott Galupo, 226-2305

Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act

S. 249

Committee on the Judiciary
No Report Filed
Referred to the House on April 20, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider S. 249 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, May 25, 1999. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

S. 249 amends the 1984 Missing Children's Assistance Act to direct the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to provide an annual grant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which will be used to (1) operate a national 24-hour, toll-free telephone line by which individuals may report information regarding the location of any missing child younger than 13 years old; (2) operate the national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children; (3) provide state and local governments, as well as nonprofit agencies, information about free or inexpensive legal, restaurant, lodging, and transportation services that are available to missing and exploited children and their families; (4) coordinate public and private programs that locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their families; (5) disseminate information relating to innovative and model programs that benefit missing and exploited children; (6) provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, state and local governments, and nonprofit agencies on how to handle cases of missing and exploited children; and (7) provide assistance to families and law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing and exploited children, both nationally and internationally.

In addition, the measure requires the administrator, either by making grants to or entering into contracts with nonprofit private agencies, to (1) periodically conduct national incidence studies to determine the number of children reported missing each year, abducted by strangers, kidnapped by parents, and recovered each year; and (2) provide state and local governments and nonprofit agencies information to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates to identify and locate missing children.

Finally, the bill amends the 1977 Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to stipulate that it is the responsibility of the federal government to assist in developing an accurate national reporting system on runaway and homeless youth, and that services for these children are needed in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The measure authorizes the Secretary of Health & Human Services to make grants to nonprofit agencies to establish and operate local centers to provide services for missing and exploited youth and their families. The bill authorizes such sums as necessary for FY 2004.

Costs/Committee Action:

CBO estimates that enactment of S. 249 will result in additional discretionary spending of approximately $273 million over the FY 2000-2004 period (if the programs are funded at the FY 1999 level every year) or $289 million (if they are funded with adjustments for inflation after FY 1999). The bill does not affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The Senate passed the measure by unanimous consent on April 19, 1999. The bill was not considered by a House committee.

Scott Galupo, 226-2305

Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act

H.R. 1259

Committees on Budget and Ways & Means
No Report Filed
Introduced by Messrs. Herger and Shaw on March 24, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 1259 on Tuesday, May 25, 1999. The Rules Committee is scheduled to meet on the bill at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24. Additional information on the rule and potential amendments will be provided to all Republican offices in a *FloorPrep* prior to floor consideration.

Summary:

H.R. 1259 amends the 1974 Congressional Budget Act (*P.L. 93-344*) to establish a "lock box" mechanism to ensure that Social Security surpluses are not spent on other government programs—or for tax cuts—by creating parliamentary obstacles and establishing new budget procedures. In doing so, the measure protects the Social Security trust fund by setting aside $1.8 trillion in cumulative budget surpluses over the next 10 years for Social Security and Medicare. Specifically, the bill:

* establishes a parliamentary point of order against any budget resolution that creates or increases an on-budget deficit (i.e., calls for using funds from the Social Security surpluses) in any fiscal year. Under current rules, the House may waive such a point of order by a simple majority vote. The Senate may override such a point of order by a 60-vote majority;

* establishes a point of order against any legislation—including all spending initiatives or tax cuts—that use funds from the Social Security surpluses;

* prohibits the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), or any other federal government agency from including Social Security surpluses in federal budget totals when publishing official documents (currently, budget documents prepared by OMB and CBO display budget totals with and without Social Security); and

* allows funds reserved in the lock box to be used only for legislation to "enhance retirement security" (i.e., Social Security and Medicare reform legislation).

Background:

The treatment of Social Security in the federal budget is often confusing. Congress enacted legislation in 1983, 1985, and 1990 to exclude the program from official calculations of the budget and largely exempt it from congressional procedures for controlling budget revenues and expenditures. However, because

Social Security represents more than a fifth of federal revenues and expenditures, it is often included in summaries of the government's financial flows. As a result, fiscal policymakers often focus on "unified" or overall budget figures that include Social Security.

It also is confusing because people mistakenly perceive that the program's removal from official budget calculations changed how its funds are handled. It did not. As has been the practice since the government first collected Social Security taxes in 1937, its taxes continue to be deposited in the U.S. Treasury (with appropriate crediting of federal securities to its trust funds), and its expenditures continue to be paid from the treasury. In effect, once these taxes are received, they become indistinguishable from other revenues the government collects. The Treasury Department issues federal securities to the Social Security trust funds to reflect receipt of payroll taxes, and redeems securities from the trust funds to reflect Social Security expenditures, but the money itself flows to and from the treasury.

In reality, there is no Social Security "trust fund," where money is held in reserve for future beneficiaries. Social Security taxes are accounted for separately through the issuance of federal securities to the trust funds—which essentially involves a series of bookkeeping entries by the Treasury Department—but the trust funds themselves do not hold money. They are simply accounts. Similarly, benefits are not paid from the trust funds, but from the treasury. As the checks are paid, securities of an equivalent value are "written off" the trust funds. When more Social Security taxes are received than spent, the balance of securities posted to the Social Security trust funds rises. Simply put, these balances, like those of a bank account, represent a promise—a form of IOU from the government—that if needed to pay Social Security benefits, the government will obtain resources equal to the value of the securities in order to do so. The surplus taxes themselves are then used to pay for other government functions.

House Rules Relating to Social Security

Under the budget rules that existed before 1991, Social Security was included in calculations of the budget deficit. This had the effect of potentially thwarting attempts to expand its benefits or cut its taxes if they were not accompanied by measures to offset the cost or loss in revenue. Floor objections could be raised against such actions if they violated the budget totals or allocations, and if enacted, other programs were threatened with sequestration because the deficit would increase. In effect, this process imposed the same fiscal discipline on Social Security that applied to other programs. Since Social Security is now exempt from the budget limits (excepting its administrative expenses), these fiscal constraints no longer apply. In their place are rules intended to make it difficult for Congress to pass measures that weaken the program's financial condition.

In the House, any member may raise a point of order against a bill that proposes more than $250 million in Social Security spending increases or tax cuts over five years unless the bill also contains offsetting spending reductions or tax increases to bring the net impact within the $250 million limit. In addition, any member may raise a point of order against a measure that increases the program's long-range (i.e., over 75 years) average costs or reduces long-range revenues by at least 0.02 percent of taxable payroll (i.e., national earnings subject to Social Security taxes).

FY 2000 Budget Resolution

Earlier this year, Congress passed the FY 2000 budget resolution that outlined budget goals for the next 10 years and called for establishing a "lock box" to reserve all of the $1.8 trillion in cumulative Social Security surpluses over the next 10 years (as opposed to the president's plan to divert only a portion of the surpluses) to ensure it is not spent for other purposes. Specifically, the measure called for establishing a point of order against any budget resolution that creates or increases an on-budget deficit in any fiscal year. The resolution stipulated that such a point of order may be waived only by a majority vote in the House and Senate. In addition, the budget resolution stipulated that funds reserved in the lock box may be used only to reform Social Security and Medicare if the chairman of the Budget Committee activates the "reserve fund."

Projected Budget Surpluses

Fiscal Year	Unified Budget* Surpluses	On Budget** Surpluses	Off-Budget*** Surpluses
	(in billions)		
FY 2000	$131.0	-$7.0	$138.0
FY 2001	$151.0	$6.0	$145.0
FY 2002	$209.0	$55.0	$153.0
FY 2003	$209.0	$48.0	$161.0
FY 2004	$234.0	$63.0	$171.0
FY 2005	$256.0	$72.0	$183.0
FY 2006	$306.0	$113.0	$193.0
FY 2007	$333.0	$130.0	$204.0
FY 2008	$355.0	$143.0	$212.0
FY 2009	$381.0	$164.0	$217.0
TOTALS	$2,565.0	$787.0	$1,777.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office

* Includes all government programs, including Social Security & the Postal Service

** Includes all programs except for Social Security & the Postal Service

*** Social Security surpluses

Social Security

The Social Security program provides benefits to 44 million Americans, including more than 27 million retirees, five million people with disabilities, and two million surviving children. The system currently is accruing more revenue than it is spending. However, beginning in 2014, Social Security will pay out more in benefits than it receives in payroll taxes, and the Social Security Board of Trustees estimate that the trust fund will be completely depleted by 2034. These problems will be magnified in the next decade when the baby boom generation begins to reach the age of 65. In fact, the ratio of workers supporting the system to recipients is expected to fall from 3.4-to-one today to two-to-one in 2035.

In his FY 2000 budget, President Clinton outlined a framework to address Social Security's funding crisis. He proposed reserving 62 percent of the projected "unified" federal budget surpluses ($2.8 trillion of some $4.5 trillion in surpluses) over the next 15 years for Social Security. His proposal would credit this amount to the Social Security trust funds as a general fund "infusion," allocating 79 percent of the surplus to buy down outstanding federal debt held by the public and 21 percent to buy stock for the trust funds. Thus, the president's plan would allow the government to invest trust fund money in the stock market for the first time ever. This framework fundamentally changes the self-financing nature of Social Security by using general revenues and private market investments to support the program. Historically, Social Security has been financed almost exclusively with dedicated payroll taxes. The administration estimates that this proposal will keep the system solvent until 2059.

Clinton Social Security Plan

Use of Unified Budget Surpluses	President's Plan	Percent of Total Surpluses
	(in billions)	
Social Security	$2,764.0	56.9%
Medicare	$686.0	14.1%
Universial Savings Accounts	$536.0	11.0%
Other Spending	$481.0	9.9%
Interest Costs	$387.0	8.0%
TOTALS	$4,854.0	100.0%

Source: Congressional Research Service

Although the president claimed his proposal earmarks 62 percent of the federal budget surpluses for Social Security reform, the actual dollar figures shown in his FY 2000 budget represent only 57 percent of the surpluses. The president's plan arrives at the 62 percent figure by ignoring the portion of the surpluses that would have to be used to pay higher interest costs arising from his budget proposals (i.e., the $387 billion shown in the chart on the previous page). The administration computes its percentage by subtracting these interest costs from the total projected surplus of $4.9 trillion. Thus, the president's plan would dedicate 57 percent of the projected federal budget surpluses to Social Security and the remaining portion would be allocated as follows: $700 billion to boost the Medicare program (14 percent), $500 billion to create new Universal Savings Accounts (11 percent), $481 billion for military readiness and other critical national needs (10 percent), and $387 billion for interest costs (eight percent).

Medicare

Medicare is a nationwide health insurance program serving 38 million aged and disabled persons with an estimated budget of $211 billion in FY 1999. While the 1997 Balanced Budget Act (BBA; *P.L. 105-33*) ensured the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund for an additional 10 years, the program's financing mechanism will be unable to sustain it in the long run. Many lawmakers are concerned that the program's structure, which in large measure reflects both the health care delivery system as well as political considerations at the time of enactment in 1965, has failed to keep pace with changes in the health care system as a whole. These problems will be magnified in 2011 when the baby boom generation begins to reach 65—the eligibility age for Medicare.

H.R. 1259 allows funds reserved in the lock box to be used only for Social Security and Medicare reform legislation.

Costs/Committee Action:

CBO did not complete a cost estimate on the measure.

The bill was not reported by a House committee.

Other Information:

"The Social Security Lock Box" by David Koitz, *CRS Report RS20165*, May 17, 1999; "Social Security's Treatment Under the Federal Budget: A Summary, by David Koitz, *CRS Report 95-206*, April 21, 1999; "The Economic and Budget Outlook: FYs 2000-2009," *Congressional Budget Office*, January 1999.

Kevin Smith, 226-7862

FY 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act

H.R. ___

Committee on Appropriations
H.Rept. 106-___
Submitted by Mr. Skeen

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. ___ on Tuesday, May 25, 1999. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed. The Rules Committee is scheduled to meet on the bill at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24. Additional information on the rule and potential amendments will be provided in a *FloorPrep* prior to floor consideration.

Highlights:

H.R.___ appropriates $60.8 billion in new FY 2000 budget authority for agriculture programs, $834 million less than last year (FY 1999 agriculture funding included $5.9 billion in emergency spending from the FY 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Act, *P.L. 105-277*) and $6 billion less than the president's request. Excluding emergency spending from the previous year, this year's appropriation increases agriculture spending by nearly $6 billion. When scorekeeping adjustments are taken into account, the bill provides $47 billion for mandatory programs (almost 80 percent of the total) and almost $14 billion for discretionary programs.

Much of the mandatory spending goes toward (1) food stamps ($21.6 billion), (2) the Food and Drug Administration ($1.1 billion), (3) child nutrition programs ($9.5 billion), (4) the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation ($997 million), and (5) the supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC, $4 billion).

In addition, the bill increases funding for agriculture credit programs by $723.8 million, Rural Housing loan authorizations by $581 million, Food Safety Inspection Service by $36 million, and Child Nutrition Programs by $370 million.

Background:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) carries out a wide variety of responsibilities through approximately 30 separate internal agencies staffed by some 100,000 employees. Agriculture appropriations fund agricultural research, marketing and export efforts, commodity price and income supports, production adjustment programs, crop and disaster insurance, subsidized farm loans, conservation activities, health and safety-related research and inspections, rural development programs, international food aid, domestic food programs (e.g., food stamps and school lunches), and the administrative expenses of operating the USDA. The funds appropriated to USDA represent about five percent of total federal government spending.

The 1996 Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act (*P.L. 104-127*), reauthorized and restructured existing farm programs over seven years to provide seven-year production and market-

FY 2000 Agriculture Appropriations

Bill Title	FY 1999 Level	President's Request	**FY 2000 Proposal**	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Title I--Agriculture Programs	$14,482.0	$20,174.1	$20,055.5	+38.5%	-0.6%
Title II--Conservation Programs	$793.1	$866.8	$800.0	+0.9%	-7.7%
Title III--Rural Economic and Community Development Prog.	$2,175.2	$2,194.3	$2,135.5	-1.8%	-2.7%
Title IV--Domestic Food Prog.	$36,067.2	$41,381.7	$35,520.7	-1.5%	-14.2%
Title V--Foreign Asst. Prog.	$1,196.7	$1,056.9	$1,160.2	-3.1%	+9.8%
Title VI--Related Agencies	$1,046.1	$1,209.4	$1,169.7	+11.8%	-3.3%
Title VII--General Provisions	$0.0	$0.0	$1.0	—-	—-
Title VII--Emergency Appropriations	$5,916.7	$0.0	$0.0	-100.0%	—-
Committee Totals	$61,677.0	$66,883.2	$60,842.6	-1.4%	-9.0%

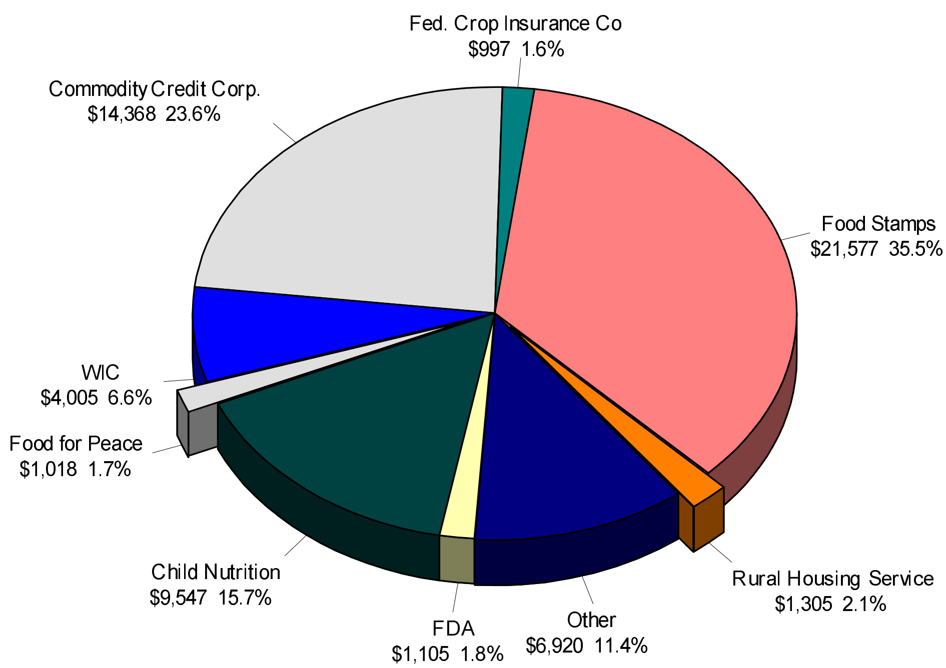
Source: House Appropriations Committee

transition contracts to farmers in place of previously-offered crop subsidies. Additionally, FAIR reduced direct federal government management of farmland in exchange for allowing farm owners greater flexibility to enroll their land in conservation programs.

Congress recently approved $723 million in emergency supplemental spending for agriculture programs in H.R. 1141, the FY 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act. This amount includes (1) $149 million for humanitarian food assistance for refugees in the Balkans, (2) $180 million for the Farm Service

FY 2000 Agriculture Appropriations

(in millions of dollars)



Source: House Appropriations Committee

Agency, including $105.6 million for the Agriculture Credit Insurance Fund for credit subsidies (the FY 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Act provided $121 million in subsidies to support $2.8 billion in Agriculture Department loans; however, this funding was depleted earlier this year), (3) $145 million for the Agriculture Marketing Service to strengthen agricultural markets, (4) $73 million to the Commodity Credit Corporation fund, and (5) $95 million for the Natural Resource Conservation Service for watershed and flood prevention operations. The bill also called for approximately $2 billion in offsets, including $1.3 billion in excess balances within the food stamp program. These numbers are not reflected in the bill.

Provisions:

Title I — Agriculture Programs

H.R.___ provides almost $14 billion for agricultural programs in FY 2000**,** $296 million more than FY 1999 and $531 million less than the president's request.

Office of the Secretary

The bill appropriates $2.8 million for the Agriculture Secretary, the same amount as the FY 1999 level and $106,000 less than the president's request. The bill stipulates that no more than $1.8 million may be spent on expenses related to advisory committees, panels, task forces, and commissions. Additionally, the measure requires the Agriculture Secretary to report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees whether the prices of raw cane and beet sugar are sufficient to prevent forfeitures and that the stock-to-use ratio is sufficient to ensure stable and adequate supplies to consumers and refiners. The Appropriations Committee also expects the Agriculture Secretary to report on the status of delinquent farm loan borrowers currently receiving farm loan payments.

Executive Operations and Various Other Administrative Expenses

The bill appropriates roughly $355 million for various offices and administrative functions within USDA, including:

* $5.6 million for the **Office of the Chief Economist**, which is equal to the FY 1999 level and $1 million less than the president's request. The Chief Economist advises the Agriculture Secretary on the economic implications of USDA policies and programs and serves as the focal point for the nation's economic intelligence and analysis, risk assessment, and cost-benefit analysis related to domestic and international food and agriculture;

* $11.7 million for the **National Appeals Division**, which is equal to the FY 1999 level and $981 million less than the president's request. The division conducts administrative hearings and reviews adverse program decisions;

* $6.6 million for the **Office of Budget and Program Analysis**, $463,000 more than the FY 1999 level and equal to the president's request. The Office of Budget and Program Analysis directs the USDA's budgetary functions, analyzes program and resource issues, and coordinates preparing and processing regulations and legislative programs;

Title I — Agricultural Programs

Appropriations Account	FY 1999 Level	President's Request	**FY 2000 Proposal**	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Office of the Secretary	$2.8	$2.9	$2.8	0.0%	-3.6%
Executive Operations	$79.5	$40.2	$34.3	-56.9%	-14.8%
Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Formers	$3.0	$10.0	$3.0	0.0%	-70.0%
Departmental Administration	$32.2	$36.1	$36.1	+12.3%	0.0%
Office of Communications	$8.1	$9.3	$8.1	0.0%	-12.5%
Office of Insector General	$65.1	$68.2	$65.1	0.0%	-4.6%
Office of General Counsel	$29.2	$32.7	$29.2	0.0%	-10.7%
Office of the Assist. Sec. for Cong. Relations	$3.7	$3.8	$3.7	0.0%	-3.6%
Miscellaneous Offices	$1.2	$2.7	$1.6	+34.7%	-42.4%
USDA Buildings & Facilities	$137.2	$166.4	$166.4	+21.3%	0.0%
Haz. Waste Management	$15.7	$22.7	$15.7	0.0%	-30.8%
Economic Research Service	$65.8	$55.6	$70.3	+6.9%	+26.3%
Nat'l Agric. Statistics Service	$104.0	$100.6	$100.6	-3.3%	0.0%
Agricultural Research Service	$842.0	$881.4	$880.9	+4.6%	-0.1%
CSREES	$919.2	$943.4	$916.3	-0.3%	-2.9%
Office of Undersec. For Marketing and Reg.	$0.6	$0.6	$0.6	0.0%	-3.6%
Agricultural Marketing Service	$61.0	$73.8	$62.8	+2.9%	-14.9%
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	$433.5	$442.6	$451.2	+4.1%	+1.9%
Grain Inspection Admin.	$26.8	$26.4	$26.4	-1.3%	0.0%
Office of Undersec. for Food Safety	$0.4	$0.5	$0.4		
Food Safety & Inspection Svc.	$617.0	$653.0	$653.0	+5.8%	0.0%
Risk Management Agency	$64.0	$70.7	$70.7	+10.5%	0.0%
Farm Service Agency	$716.9	$799.3	$799.3	+11.5%	0.0%
Office of Undersec. for Farm and Foreign Ag. Services	$0.6	$0.6	$0.6	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services Bureau	$0.0	$74.1	$0.0	—-	-100.0%
Agriculture Credit Insurance	$309.6	$291.5	$291.5	-5.8%	0.0%
Federal Crop Insurance Corp.	$1,504.0	$997.0	$997.0	-33.7%	0.0%
Commodity Credit Corp.	$8,439.0	$14,368.0	$14,368.0	+70.3%	0.0%
Total, Title I Programs	$14,482.0	$20,174.1	$20,055.5	+38.5%	-0.6%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

* $6 million, $500,000 more than the FY 1999 level and $1.9 million less than the president's request, for the **Office of Chief Information Officer** to provide policy guidance, leadership, expertise, and direction in the department's information management and technology activities;

* $4.2 million, equal to the FY 1999 level and $2 million less than the president's request, for the **Chief Financial Officer** to provide leadership and expertise in developing department and agency programs in financial management, accounting, travel, and performance;

* $36 million for **departmental administration**, $3.9 million more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request, to provide staff support to top policy officials and overall direc-

tion and coordination of the department. Such activities include department-wide programs for human resource management and emergency preparedness;

* $166 million for **agriculture buildings, facilities, and rental payments**, $29 million more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request;

* $29 million for the **Office of the General Counsel**, equal to the FY 1999 level and $3.5 million less than the president's request, for all legal work arising from USDA's activities;

* $65 million for the **Office of the Inspector General**, equal to last year's level and $3.1 million less than the president's request, to direct audit and investigative activities within the USDA;

* $940,000 for the **Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics**, $400,000 more than FY 1999 and $1.1 less than the president's request;

* $15.7 million, equal to FY 1999 and $7 million below the president's request, for **hazardous waste management** on waste storage sites within USDA jurisdiction.

The bill also provides funds at approximately the same level as last year for several administrative programs, including: (1) $613,000 for the Assistant Secretary for Administration; (2) $446,000 for the Under Secretary for Food Safety; (3) $8.1 million for the Office of Communications; (4) $3.7 million for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to maintain liaison with Congress and the White House; (5) $618,000 for the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs; (6) $3 million for outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers; and (7) $572,000 for the Under Secretary for Farm an Foreign Agricultural Services.

Economic Research Service (ERS)

The bill appropriates $70.3 million for ERS, $4.5 million more than FY 1999 and $14.6 million more than the president's request. ERS provides economic and social science data and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

The bill provides $100.6 million for NASS, $3.4 million less than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request. NASS collects and publishes current agricultural statistics to help in making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions. Included in this amount is $16.5 million for the Census of Agriculture, which collects and provides comprehensive data every five years on all aspects of the agricultural economy.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

The bill provides $834.4 million for ARS, $51 million more than FY 1999 and $487,000 less than the president's request. Created in 1953, ARS researches livestock, plant science, entomology, soil and water conservation, agricultural engineering utilization and development, and nutrition and consumer use. This account funds individual research projects, building maintenance costs for national research laboratories, and the salaries of ARS researchers. The bill also provides $44.5 million for ARS buildings and facilities.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

The bill provides $467.3 million for CSREES, $13.9 million less than FY 1999 and $1.6 million less than the president's request. CSREES was created in 1994 by merging the Cooperative State Research Service and the Extension Service. It works with university partners to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit individuals, communities, and the nation. Programs within the service are detailed below.

Research and Education. The bill appropriates $467.3 million for CSREES research and education activities, $13.9 million less than FY 1999 and $1.6 million less than the president's request, to administer agriculture research and higher education carried out by the State Agriculture Experiment Stations.

Native American Institutions Endowment Fund. The bill provides $4.6 million, equal to both the FY 1999 level and the president's request, for the new Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, which supports student recruitment and retention, curriculum development, faculty preparation, and the purchase of scientific equipment at 29 tribally-owned land grant institutions. Each year, 60 percent of the interest from this endowment will be distributed among the land grant institutions on a pro rata basis (based on the Native American student count), and the remaining 40 percent will be distributed in equal shares to the institutions.

Extension Activities. The bill appropriates $439 million for extension activities, $1 million more than FY 1999 and $36.4 million more than the president's request. Extension activities provide instruction and demonstrations in agricultural and home economics and related subjects. The service also provides nutrition training to low-income families, 4-H Club work, and educational assistance such as community resource development.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

The bill appropriates $451.2 million for APHIS, $17.7 million more than FY 1999 and $8.6 million more than the president's request. APHIS protects the nation's animal and plant resources from pests and disease by conducting inspections and quarantines at U.S. ports of entry, providing scientific and technical services, and overseeing animal damage control programs.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

The bill provides $62.8 million for AMS, $1.8 million more than FY 1999 and $11 million less than the president's request. Created in 1972, the AMS provides market news reports, develops quality grade standards, administers USDA's laboratory accreditation program, and advances orderly and efficient marketing, distribution, and transportation of products from the nation's farms. In addition, the bill prohibits the USDA from disallowing participation by farmer-owned cooperatives in the commodity purchase program.

Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

The bill appropriates $26 million for GIPSA, $339,000 less than the FY 1999 level and equal to the president's request. GIPSA was created by the merger of the Federal Grain Inspection Service and the Packers and Stockyard Administration in 1994. It inspects, grades, and weighs various kinds of grain; grades dry beans, peas, and processed grain products; and monitors competition in order to protect producers, consumers, and industry from deceptive and fraudulent practices which affect meat and poultry prices.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

The bill provides $653 million for FSIS, $36 million more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request. Created in 1981, FSIS assures that meat, poultry, and egg products (domestic and foreign) meet federal quality, labeling, and packaging standards. The bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide information on FY 1999 budget shortfalls and ensure that FSIS is observing good budgeting and management practices. In addition, the bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to the Appropriations Committee no later than January 30, 2000, describing the operation of its recall coordinator, including the coordinator's activities during recent meat and/or poultry recalls.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The bill appropriates $799.3 million for the Farm Service Agency, $82.3 million more than FY 1999 and the same as the president's request. Together with $211.4 million transferred from other program accounts, this appropriation gives the agency an overall budget of $1 billion.

Created in 1994 by the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA) as the Consolidated Farm Service Agency, the name was shortened in 1995. FSA administers the commodity price support and production adjustment programs financed by the Commodity Credit Corporation, the warehouse examination function, several conservation programs (see Title II) formerly performed by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and farm and disaster assistance loans from the former Farmers Home Administration.

The agency also conducts the Dairy Indemnity Program, which receives $450,000 for FY 2000. The Dairy Indemnity Program compensates dairy farmers and manufacturers who suffer losses from the removal of their milk from commercial markets due to product contamination by registered pesticides.

Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (ACIF)

The bill provides $291.5 million—$18 million less than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request—to support $3 billion in loans to farmers and ranchers. This appropriation includes $7.2 million in farm ownership loans, $61.8 million in farm operating loans, and $214 million for salaries and administrative expenses. ACIF loans help producers (1) acquire, enlarge, and improve property; (2) purchase livestock, feed, equipment, seed, fertilizer, and other supplies, (3) refinance their debts, (4) take steps to conserve soil and water, and (5) recover from natural disasters. ACIF also makes loans to Indian tribes to help them acquire lands within their reservation.

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The measure provides $70.7 million, $6.7 million more than FY 1999 and the same as the president's request, for the RMA. RMA manages program activities in support of the federal crop insurance program to provide actuarially sound crop insurance policies.

Support Services Bureau (SSB)

The bill provides no direct appropriation for the Support Services Bureau. No funds were provided for SSB in FY 1999, however; the president requested $74 million for FY 2000. The county-based agencies have been streamlining offices to provide "one-stop service" for USDA customers.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund

The bill provides $997 million for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund, $507 million less than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request. Through programs administered by the 1994 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA), insurable crop producers are eligible to receive a basic level of protection against catastrophic losses, which covers 50 percent of the normal yield at 55 percent of the expected price. Producers pay $60 per policy, $200 for all crops grown in a county, with a cap of $600 per producer. Any producer who opts for catastrophic coverage may purchase additional insurance coverage at a subsidized rate. The federal crop insurance program is administered by the Risk Management Agency.

Most policies are sold and completely serviced through approved private insurance companies that are reinsured by USDA. The USDA absorbs a large percentage of the program losses, compensates the reinsured companies for a portion of their delivery expenses, and also subsidizes the premium paid by participating producers. Program losses and the premium subsidy are mandatory expenditures which are funded through the Federal Crop Insurance Fund. Because crop losses caused by natural disasters are impossible to predict, outlays of the fund are difficult to budget. Hence, the bill provides "such sums as are necessary" in the annual appropriations bill, which USDA estimates at $997 million.

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)

The bill provides $14.4 billion for the CCC, $5.9 billion more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request, to reimburse the CCC for net realized losses. The bill also extends last year's $5 million cap on operations and maintenance expenses for the CCC's hazardous waste management program, equal to both the FY 1999 level and the president's request. Funding from this account goes toward ensuring that CCC sites remain in compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (i.e., Superfund) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Created in 1933, the CCC is a government-owned entity for financing production adjustment programs, as well as price supports, for numerous commodities such as grains, cotton, milk, sugar, peanuts, wool, and tobacco. Its aim is to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices; assist in maintaining balance and adequate supply of such commodities; and facilitate their orderly distribution. The CCC serves as a funding mechanism for several USDA export subsidy programs, including the export enhancement program, export credit guarantees, and the market assistance program, and for an array of conservation programs, including the conservation reserve program, the wetlands reserve program, and the environmental qualities incentive program.

The CCC is managed by a board of directors appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, subject to general supervision and direction by the Agriculture Secretary. Because most of the CCC's activities are mandatory spending programs, they do not require annual appropriations. The corporation borrows money from the Treasury to fund its operations. However, because total CCC outstanding borrowing cannot exceed $30 billion, the annual appropriations bill usually contains funding to reimburse net realized losses (i.e., outlays) so the CCC does not exhaust its borrowing authority. Consequently, the $14.4 billion provided in the bill reimburses CCC for its $9.3 billion actual operating loss in FY 1998, and $5 billion to partially cover anticipated FY 1999 losses. USDA estimates total CCC spending of $18.2 billion in FY 1999 and $12.4 billion in FY 2000.

Title II — Conservation Programs

Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

The bill provides $693,000, equal to the FY 1999 level and $28,000 less than the president's request, to the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment to provide direction and coordination in carrying out laws concerning natural resources and the environment.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The bill provides $799.3 million, $6.9 million more than FY 1999 and $66.8 million less than the president's request, for the NRCS. Created by the 1994 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA), NRCS combines the former Soil Conservation Service and three natural resource conservation cost-share programs previously run by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. It works together with conservation districts, watershed groups, and federal and state agencies to aid agricultural production on a sustained basis and reduce damage caused by floods, sedimentation, and pollution. Activities include the following programs.

Conservation Operations. The bill provides $654.2 million to sustain agricultural productivity and protect and enhance the natural resource base, $13 million more than FY 1999 and $26.4 million less than the president's request. The bill limits to 120,000 the additional acres that may be enrolled in the wetlands reserve program. The measure also limits the funding level for the environmental quality incentives program (EQIP) to $174 million.

Watershed Surveys and Planning. The bill provides $10.4 million—equal to FY 1999 and $1.4 million less than the president's request—to fund investigations and surveys of watersheds and other waterways.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. The bill provides $99.4 million—equal to the FY 1999 level and $16 million more than the president's request—to facilitate cooperation between the federal government and states to prevent erosion, flood-water, and sediment damage in watersheds, rivers, and streams and to further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water. The bill also limits the amount spent on technical assistance to no more than $47 million.

Resource Conservation and Development. The bill provides $35.3 million—$265,000 more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request—for conservation programs including Resource Conservation and Development Program, to assist local groups in conserving land and other resources.

Title III — Farm and Rural Development Programs

Appropriation Account	FY 1999 Level	President's Request	**FY 2000 Proposal**	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Office of the Undersecretary	$0.6	$0.6	$0.6	0.0%	-3.9%
Rural Community Advance.	$722.7	$670.1	$666.1	-7.8%	-0.6%
Rural Housing Service	$1,269.4	$1,345.7	$1,305.3	+2.8%	-3.0%
Rural Bus. Coop. Service	$52.9	$63.2	$60.2	+13.9%	-4.7%
Rural Utilities Service	$129.7	$114.7	$103.3	-20.3%	—-
TOTALS	$2,175.2	$2,194.3	$2,135.5	-1.8%	-2.7%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Title III — Rural Economic and Community Development Programs

The 1994 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA) abolished several programs and agencies funded under this title in FY 1995, including the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Development Administration, and the Rural Electrification Administration, and replaced them with the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. The bill appropriates $2.1 billion, $39.7 million less than FY 1999 and $58.8 million less than the president's request, for these accounts.

Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development

The bill appropriates $588,000 for the under secretary, who provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws concerning the department's rural economic and community development activities. This amount is equal to the FY 1999 level and $24,000 less than the president's request. The bill directs USDA to (1) assist borrowers affected by tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas, (2) use its resources only on programs that directly benefit applicants for rural development assistance, and (3) work with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to avoid duplication and refer qualified applicants to HUD. In addition, the measure directs USDA to develop and publish regulations by September 30, 1999, for private, non-profit community-based housing and community development organizations, and rural communities to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP)

The measure provides $666 million—$56.6 million less than FY 1999 and $4 million less than the president's request—for the RCAP, which consolidates funding for various waste and water disposal programs, distributes grants to rural businesses and enterprises. The program was authorized by the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR). The bill allows state rural development directors to transfer up to 25 percent between projects, as long as such transfers do not result in more than 10 percent transferred nationally.

Rural Housing Service (RHS)

RHS was established in 1994. Its programs were previously administered by the Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Development Administration. The mission of the service is to improve the quality of life in rural America by assisting rural residents and communities in obtaining adequate and affordable housing and access to needed community facilities. Amounts appropriated for specific RHS programs are discussed below.

Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account. The bill appropriates $1.2 billion—$23.9 million more than FY 1999 and $34.4 million less than the president's request—to support $4.8 billion in rural housing loans. This sum includes $184 million in direct loan subsidies, $20 million in guaranteed loan subsidies, and $377.9 million for administrative expenses. Created in 1965, RHFP makes (1) rural housing loans to farm owners, owners of other real estate in rural areas, and long-term farm leaseholders to build, improve, alter, repair, or replace houses, barns, silos, and other essential buildings; (2) rental housing loans (which must be repaid within 30 years) to individuals, corporations, and associations which provide moderate-cost rental housing to the elderly; and (3) farm labor housing loans to farm owners and private organizations to provide modest living quarters for domestic farm labor. The program is limited to rural areas with populations less than 20,000.

Rental Assistance Program. The bill provides $583.4 million—$3,000 more than the FY 1999 level and $56.6 million less than the president's request—to help low-income families living in RHS-financed rental and farm labor housing projects pay their rent. Tenants must contribute the higher of (1) 30 percent of their monthly adjusted income, (2) 10 percent of monthly income, or (3) designated housing payments from a welfare agency. The program makes direct payments to the project owner to cover the difference between this contribution and the approved rental rate.

Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants. The bill provides $28 million for mutual and self-help housing grants, $2 million more than FY 1999 and $2 million less than the president's request, for grants to local organizations under which groups of usually six to ten families build their own homes by mutually exchanging labor.

Rural Housing Assistance Grants. The bill provides $50 million, $9 million more than last year and $4 million less than the president's request, for rural housing grants for domestic farm labor, very low-income housing repair grants, rural housing preservation grants, compensation for construction defects, direct community facility loans, guaranteed community facility loans and community facility grants.

Rural Business-Cooperative Development Service (RB-CDS)

The bill provides $60.2 million in overall funding for RB-CDS—$7.3 million more than FY 1999 and $3 million less than the president's request—for FY 2000. This amount includes $24.6 million to fund the salaries and administrative expenses associated with reviewing applications, making and collecting loans, and providing technical assistance and guidance to borrowers, as well as to assist in extending other federal programs to people in rural areas. RB-CDS was created in 1995. Its programs were previously administered through the Rural Development Administration and the Rural Electrification Administration. The service enhances the quality of life for all rural residents by assisting new and existing cooperatives and other businesses through partnership with rural communities.

Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account. The bill provides $26.1 million—$6 million more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request—to support $22.8 million in loans to intermediary borrowers (small investment groups) who, in turn, loan the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, private nonprofit organizations, and public agencies. Such loans go toward improving business, industry, community facilities, and employment opportunities and diversification of the economy in rural areas.

Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account. The bill provides $3.5 million in direct subsidy to this account—the same level as FY 1999 and the president's—which supports $15 million in zero-interest loans to electric and telecommunications borrowers to promote rural economic development and job creation projects, including funding for feasibility studies, start-up costs, and other reasonable expenses for the purpose of fostering such development.

Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Revolving Fund (AARC). The bill does not provide funding for this account in FY 2000, which finances cooperative agreements to develop and market new non-food, non-feed uses for agriculture commodities.

Rural Cooperative Development Grants. The measure provides $6 million—$2.7 million more than FY 1999 and $3 million less than the president's request—for grants to improve economic conditions in rural areas. Additionally, the bill stipulates that not more than $1.5 million be put toward the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) program.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

The RUS was created in 1994 by DAGRA to administer electric and telecommunications programs of the former Rural Electrification Administration as well as water and waste disposal programs of the former Rural Development Administration. The service's objective is to improve the quality of life in rural America by administering its electric, telecommunications, and water and waste disposal programs in a service-oriented, forward looking, and financially responsible manner. The bill provides $103.3 million overall, which is $26.4 million less than FY 1999 and $11.4 million less than the president's request. Of this amount, $68.2 million (in appropriations and transferred funds) is allotted for salaries and administrative expenses associated with reviewing applications, making and collecting loans, and providing technical assistance and guidance to borrowers and assisting in extending other federal programs to people in rural areas.

Rural Electrification and Telephone Loans Program Account. The bill provides $46.2 million—$27.1 million less than FY 1999 and $2.6 million more than the president's request—to support $2.4 billion in loans to maintain and expand electricity and telephone service in rural areas.

Rural Telephone Bank Program Account (RTB). The bill provides $3 million for administrative expenses (equal to FY 1999 and the president's request) and $3.3 million in direct loan subsidies ($884,000 less than last year, and equal to the president's request) for the RTB. The bill provides for a $175 million loan level.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants and Loans. The bill provides $16.7 million—$4 million more than FY 1999 and $4 million less than the president's request—for this program, which provides facilities and equipment to link rural education and medical facilities with urban facilities to provide better health care through technology.

Title IV — Domestic Food Programs

Appropriation Account	FY 1999 Level	President's Request	**FY 2000 Proposal**	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Office of the Under Sec.	$0.6	$0.6	$0.6	0.0%	-3.8%
Child Nutrition Programs	$9,176.9	$9,565.0	$9,547.0	+4.0%	-0.2%
Commodity Assistance	$131.0	$155.2	$141.0	+7.6%	-9.2%
Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)	$3,924.0	$4,105.5	$4,005.0	+2.1%	-2.4%
Food Stamp Program	$22,585.1	$27,284.4	$21,577.4	-4.5%	-20.9%
Food Donation Program	$141.1	$151.1	$141.1	0.0%	-6.6%
Food Program Admin.	$108.6	$119.8	$108.6	0.0%	-9.4%
TOTALS	$36,067.2	$41,381.7	$35,520.7	-1.5%	-14.2%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Title IV — Domestic Food Programs

Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

The bill appropriates $554,000, the same as FY 1999 and $22,000 less than the president's request, for this account within the Food Program Administration (FPA). The office provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws regarding food and consumer activities, and has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

The bill appropriates $35.5 billion, $546.5 million less than FY 1999 and $5.9 billion less than the president's request, for FNS in FY 2000. This includes $108.6 million—equal to FY 1999 and $11.3 million less than the president's request—to pay the salaries and other administrative expenses involved in administering the domestic food programs run by the FNS, as well as supporting the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Originally established in 1969, the Food Nutrition Service was renamed in 1994 pursuant to DAGRA. FNS-administered programs are described below.

Child Nutrition Programs. The bill provides $9.5 billion for child nutrition programs, which is $370.1 million more than FY 1999 and $18 million less than the president's request. This account includes the school breakfast and lunch programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Programs, summer food services, nutrition education and training programs and the Special Milk Program. In addition, the special milk program provides funding for milk service in schools, nonprofit child care centers, and camps which have no other federally-assisted food programs. The primary purpose of these programs is to improve the health and well-being of the nation's children and broaden markets for agricultural food commodities. Working through state agencies (in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam), FNS provides both cash and foodstuffs to ensure that children receive at least one hot, nutritious meal each day. The bill provides the school lunch program with $5.5 billion and the school breakfast program $1.4 billion.

Food Stamp Program. The bill appropriates $21.6 billion for the Food Stamp program, $1 billion less than FY 1999 and $5.7 billion less than the president's request. Established in 1964, this program is aimed at making more effective use of the nation's food supply and improving nutritional standards of needy persons and families by issuing assistance coupons which may use to purchase food in retail stores. All administrative costs associated with certifying recipients, issuing coupons, ensuring quality control, and holding hearings are shared by the federal government and the states on a 50-50 basis. Although food stamps is a mandatory entitlement program, it is subject to annual appropriations. That appropriation also includes a nutritional assistance block grant to Puerto Rico, authorized under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA; *P.L. 97-35*), which gives the commonwealth broad flexibility in establishing a food assistance program that is specifically tailored to the needs of its low-income households.

The bill also directs the Agriculture Secretary to submit a report to the Appropriations Committee on FNS' efforts to ensure that all states operate on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. EBT allows recipients to electronically transfer their government benefits from a federal account to a retailer to pay for products received.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The bill provides $4 billion for the WIC program, $81 million more than FY 1999 but $100.5 million less than the president's request. The amount allows the program to maintain the current monthly participation level of 7.4 million. WIC safeguards the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk by providing food packages designed to supplement each participant's diet with food that are typically lacking. Delivery of supplemental foods may be done through health clinics, vouchers redeemable at retail food stores, or other approved methods which a cooperating state health agency may select. In 1989, Congress enacted cost-containment measures to ensure that eligible participants would have access to these necessary services. It also established the WIC farmers' market nutrition program (FMNP) to (1) improve WIC participants' diets by providing them with coupons to purchase fresh foods, such as fruits and vegetables, from farmers markets; and (2) increase the awareness and use of farmers' markets by low-income households. Funds for the WIC program are provided by direct annual appropriation.

Food Donations Programs. The bill provides $141.1 million, equal to FY 1999 and $10 million less than the president's request, for food distribution programs targeted at special at-risk populations, including the elderly, needy individuals in the Pacific Island Territories, and Indians living on or near reservations who choose not to receive food stamps. Funding for the operation of this program, also know as Meals on Wheels, is contained in the Labor, Health and Humans Services appropriations bill.

Commodity Assistance Program (CAP). The bill provides $141 million, $10 million more than FY 1999 and $14.2 million less than the president's request for CAP. This account funds the Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides supplemental foods to infants and children up to age six, and to pregnant, post-partum, and breast-feeding women with low incomes who reside in approved areas and administrative expenses for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides commodities and grant funds to state agencies to assist in the cost of storing and distributing donated commodities to needy individuals. The bill includes $45 million for the administration of TEFAP, which may be used for administrative purposes or food costs at the discretion of the states.

Title V — Foreign Assistance and Related Programs

The bill provides $1.2 billion for foreign assistance and related programs, $36.5 million less than FY 1999 and $103.3 million more than the president's request.

Title V — Foreign Assistance And Related Programs

Appropriation Account	FY 1999 Level	President's Request	FY 2000 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Foreign Agricultural Service	$136.2	$137.8	$137.8	+1.1%	0.0%
Public Law 480 Food for Peace	$1,056.7	$915.0	$1,018.3	-3.6%	+11.3%
CCC Export Loans Program Account	$3.8	$4.1	$4.1	+6.9%	0.0%
TOTALS	$1,196.7	$1,056.9	$1,160.2	-3.1%	+9.8%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

The bill appropriates $137.8 million for FAS, $1.6 million more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request. Together with $4.5 million in transfers from loan accounts, these funds give the agency an overall budget of $142.3 million. FAS helps U.S. agricultural interests maintain and expand foreign markets through special export programs and by securing international trade conditions that are favorable to American products. It maintains a worldwide intelligence and reporting service that provides important information on foreign agricultural policies and market conditions, and coordinates, plans, and directs the USDA's programs in international development and technical cooperation in food and agriculture.

Public Law 480 (Food for Peace) Programs

The measure appropriates $1 billion—$38.4 million less than FY 1999 and $103.3 million more than the president's request—for the three main programs under *P.L. 480*, which serve as the primary means for the U.S. provision of food assistance overseas. The bill allots:

* $200.6 million in direct loans and $14 million for ocean freight differential costs for Title I, which provides food commercially under long-term, low-interest loan terms. Overall, this amounts to $5.1 million less than FY 1999 and $64.3 million less than the president's request;

* $837 million for grants under Title II, which provides food aid for humanitarian relief through private voluntary organizations or through multilateral organizations like the World Food Program. This funding is equal to FY 1999 level and $50 million more than the president's request; and

* no funding for Title III grants (the president requested no funding). Title III grants supply food commodities to very poor countries for direct feeding, development of emergency food reserves, or sale in order to finance specific economic development purposes.

The bill includes language allowing the Agriculture Secretary to transfer up to 15 percent among titles I, II, and III.

Title VI — Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration

Appropriation Account	FY 1999 Level	President's Request	**FY 2000 Proposal**	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)				
Food and Drug Administration	$982.2	$1,141.7	$1,104.7	+12.5%	-3.2%
Financial Management Service	$2.6	$0.0	$0.0	-100.0%	0.0%
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	$61.0	$67.7	$65.0	+6.6%	-3.9%
(Y2K Conversion)	$0.4	$0.0	$0.0	—-	—-
TOTALS	$1,046.1	$1,209.4	$1,169.7	+11.8%	-3.3%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Export Loans

The bill provides $4.1 million—$265,000 more than FY 1999 and equal to the president's request—for the CCC to guarantee commercial loans to finance U.S. agricultural export sales. Funds in this account are used to cover the lifetime subsidy cost associated with these commitments in 2000 and beyond, as well as administrative expenses.

Title VI — FDA and Related Agencies

The bill provides roughly $1.2 billion for the FDA and related agencies, $123.6 million more than FY 1999 and $39.7 million more than the president's request.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The bill appropriates $1.1 billion for the FDA, $122.5 million more than FY 1999 and $37 million less than the president's request. The FDA, which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), ensures that (1) food is safe and wholesome, (2) human and animal drugs, biological products, and medical devices are safe and effective, and (3) radiological products and use procedures do not result in unnecessary exposure to radiation. Through its regulation of food, FDA protects and promotes the health of nearly every American by monitoring the food industry to safeguard against contamination by dangerous bacteria, molds, and other natural and man-made toxins, and by regulating the safe use of veterinary drugs and feed additives to protect consumers against hazardous drug residues or by products that may remain in meat. FDA also assures that the consumers are not victimized by adulteration, promotes informative labeling to assist consumers in choosing foods, and examines imported foods to ensure that they meet the same standards as domestic products.

The bill requires FDA to report to the Appropriations Committee by March 1, 2000, on activities undertaken to improve coordination between FDA and the U.S. Customs Service on the inspection and regulation of imported foods. In addition, pending the Supreme Court's ruling on FDA's jurisdiction over tobacco regulation, the measure maintains FY 1999 funding of $34 million for tobacco programs. The president requested that funds be doubled for youth tobacco prevention activities. However, the bill requires FDA to report on the effects of reducing illegal tobacco sales to minors through the use of automated identification systems (e.g., drivers licenses) and directs FDA to develop a pilot program to provide retailers with "on the spot" results of anti-youth smoking compliance checks.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)

The bill provides $65 million to the CFTC, $4 million more than FY 1999 and $2.7 million less than the president's request. The commission promotes the economic utility of futures and options markets for agricultural products and regulates the commodity futures industry and other commodities by increasing their efficiency, ensuring their integrity, and protecting participants against abusive trade practices.

Farm Credit Administration (FCA)

The measure maintains the FY 1999 funding level of $35.8 million for the FCA in FY 2000. The president requested no funding for this program. FCA is responsible for regulating, supervising, and examining the institutions of the Farm Credit System. These activities provide short- and long- term credit to our nation's farmers, ranchers, and producers of aquatic products.

Title VII — General Provisions

The bill includes several general provisions that were included in last year's appropriation. Most of these are general limitations on spending. Noteworthy provisions include language to (1) prohibit funds to implement the Kyoto Protocol; (2) limit funds for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to $174 million; and (3) prohibit the use of funds for the Conservation Farm Option program.

Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The Appropriations Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

Other Information:

"Appropriations for FY 2000: U.S. Department of Agriculture and Related Agencies," *CRS* May 7, 1999.

Mary Rose Baker, 226-6871

FY 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act

H.R.___

Committee on Appropriations
H.Rept. 106-___
To Be Submitted by Mr. Taylor

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R.___ on Wednesday, May 26, 1999. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour and are subject to one motion to recommit. The Rules Committee is scheduled to meet on the bill at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25. Additional information on the rule and potential amendments will be provided to all Republican offices in a *FloorPrep* prior to floor consideration.

Highlights:

H.R.___ appropriates $1.9 billion for the House of Representatives and other legislative branch operations, $135 million less than in FY 1999. Specifically, the bill provides (1) $769 million for the House of Representatives (a $28.5 million increase over the FY 1999 level); (2) $98.8 million for joint functions of the House and Senate (a $106.1 million decrease from last year); and (3) $738.9 million for related agencies, such as the Library of Congress and the non-congressional work of the Government Printing Office (a $37.2 million increase over last year). The bill does not include spending for the operation of the Senate. This year, the Senate has already completed action on its version of the legislative branch appropriations, which appropriates $574.9 million for the Senate.

Background:

The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill funds House and Senate operations as well as various joint support services and federal agencies—such as the Library of Congress—that are associated with the legislative branch. Because of the separation of powers, these appropriations are forwarded and approved in a somewhat different manner than funding for executive departments and agencies. Although the president's budget request includes figures for the legislative branch, these numbers do not reflect his own policies. Rather, congressional offices and related agencies submit their own budget requests which the president must, by law, transmit unchanged to Congress. Out of deference, the House and the Senate traditionally do not legislate on funding for those operations exclusive to the other body. Any disputes over joint operations or related agencies are resolved in conference.

Provisions:

— Congressional Operations —

House of Representatives

H.R.___ appropriates $769 million for operations of the House for FY 1999, $28.5 million more than in FY 1999. This money funds House leadership offices, member's allowances, committee salaries and expenses, salaries for House officers and employees, the House day care center, and other general expenses.

House Leadership Offices. The bill provides $14.2 million for House leadership offices, $1.1 million more than last year. This funding also provides development training for employees of the minority and majority parties.

Members' Representational Allowances. H.R.___ appropriates $413.6 million for members' allowances, $28.3 million more than in FY 1999 and $7.8 million less than the president's request. This account includes estimated allowances of $283.5 million for clerk hire salaries, $100.6 million for office expenses, and $29.4 million for official mail. Each member has an overall consolidated allowance from which staff salaries, office expenses, and mail costs are drawn. This gives members more flexibility to distribute funds among different functions according to their own priorities and make it easier for them to show savings achieved when they do not spend their full allowances.

House Committees. The measure allocates $115.2 million for salaries and expenses of the House's 19 standing committees and one permanent select committee—$6.1 million more than in FY 1998 and $3.6 million less than the president's request.

House Officers and General Employees. H.R.___ provides $90.6 million for the salaries and expenses of the officers and general employees of the House, $5.7 million less than in FY 1999 and $4 million less than the president's request.

Allowances and Expenses. The bill appropriates $135.4 million to the House's allowances and expenses account, $1 million less than the FY 1999 level and $652,000 less than the president's request. Over 97.2 percent of this funding pays for the employer share of retirement, health care, and unemployment compensation for House employees. The remaining funds finance the purchase of supplies and materials; administrative costs; federal tort claims; official mail for committees, leadership, and administrative offices; and other miscellaneous items.

Joint Items

H.R.___ provides $98.8 million for various joint committees and activities shared with the Senate, $106.1 million less than in FY 1999 and $5.2 million less than the president's request.

Joint Economic Committee (JEC). The measure allocates $3.2 million for the JEC, $104,000 more than in FY 1999. The JEC reviews economic conditions and recommends to Congress improvements in economic policy.

FY 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations

Appropriation Account	FY 1999 Level	President's Request*	**FY 2000 Level**	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Title I--Congressional Operations					
House of Representatives	$740.5	$785.2	$769.0	+3.9%	-2.1%
Joint Items	$204.9	$104.0	$98.8	-51.8%	-5.0%
Office of Compliance	$2.1	$2.1	$2.0	-4.1%	-5.0%
Congressional Budget Office	$25.7	$26.8	$26.2	+2.1%	-3.7%
Architect of the Capitol	$235.6	$192.0	$133.0	-43.5%	-30.7%
Congressional Research Service (CRS)	$67.1	$71.3	$71.3	+6.2%	0.0%
Government Printing Office (Congressional Binding and Printing)	$74.5	$82.2	$77.7	+4.3%	-5.5%
Subtotal--Title I	$1,350.3	$1,263.6	$1,178.0	-12.8%	-6.8%
Title II--Other Agencies					
Botanic Garden	$3.1	$4.0	$3.5	+15.9%	-10.9%
Library of Congress (Except CRS)	$296.5	$312.4	$315.0	+6.2%	+0.8%
Architect of the Capitol (Library Buildings and Grounds)	$13.7	$19.9	$17.8	+30.1%	-10.5%
Government Printing Office (except Congressional Binding and Printing)	$29.3	$46.2	$30.0	+2.5%	-35.2%
General Accounting Office	$359.3	$387.0	$372.7	+3.7%	-3.7%
Subtotal--Title II	$701.8	$769.5	$738.9	+5.3%	-4.0%
TOTALS	$2,052.1	$2,033.1	$1,917.0	-6.6%	-5.7%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

*Legislative branch agencies submit their budget requests to the president, and by law he must transmit them, unchanged, to Congress in his annual budget. That is, "President's Request" numbers are not derived by the president but are requested by congressional offices and related agencies themselves.

Joint Committee on Printing (JCP). The JCP did not request any funds for FY 2000. Last year, JCP received $352,000.

Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT). The bill appropriates $6.2 million for the JCT, $223,000 more than in FY 1999 and $68,000 less than the president's request. JCT is responsible for investigating the operations and effects of the federal Internal Revenue Service, investigating methods for simplifying the tax code, and reporting to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee on tax measures.

Office of the Attending Physician. The bill allocates $1.9 million for the Office of the Attending Physician—$483,000 more than in FY 1999—for medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances of Navy personnel detailed to the Office of the Attending Physician.

Capitol Police Board. The measure appropriates $85.2 million—$105,000 less than the FY 1999 level and $5 million less than the president's request—for expenses and personnel for the Capitol police (which include both House and Senate payrolls).

Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office. H.R.___ appropriates $2.3 million—$98,000 more than last year and $131,000 less than the president's request—for the operation of the Capitol Guide Service and Special Services. The Capitol Guide Service assists the millions of visitors to the Capitol each year, and the Special Services Office assists official visitors and those who require special assistance because of physical disabilities.

Statements of Appropriations. The measure allocates $30,000 for preparing the statements of appropriations for the first session of the 106th Congress, compiled jointly by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

Office of Compliance

The bill appropriates $2 million, $86,000 less than in FY 1999 and $76,000 less than the president's request, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Compliance, which oversees the enforcement of the congressional accountability laws. The budget reduction reflects a diminished workload at the office since it has completed startup activity required under the Congressional Accountability Act.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

H.R.___ appropriates $26.2 million for CBO, $550,000 more than in FY 1999 and $600,000 less than the president's request. The 1974 Budget Act (as amended) requires CBO to (1) provide budget scorekeeping by maintaining current accounts of congressional revenue and spending actions; (2) prepare five-year cost estimates for bills reported by authorizing committees; (3) supply information on tax expenditures and revenues; (4) report annual projections of new budget authority, outlays, and revenues for the coming five fiscal years; (5) prepare three advisory sequestration reports annually; and (6) respond to requests from congressional committees for economic and budgetary information and analyses. The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act (*P.L. 104-4*) also charges CBO with estimating the costs to state and local governments, as well as the private sector, of complying with federal legislation.

Architect of the Capitol

The measure appropriates a total of $133 million—$102.6 million less than in FY 1999 and $59,000 less than the president's request—for the Architect of the Capitol. The architect performs various operational and maintenance activities that are directly related to the operation of Congress.

Of this amount, the measure provides (1) $47.6 million to operate and maintain the Capitol building, $96.1 million less than in FY 1999; (2) $5.6 million for the care and improvement of the grounds surrounding the Capitol and the House and Senate office buildings, $467,000 less than in FY 1999; (3) $40.7 million for the operation of the House office buildings, $7 million less than in FY 1999; and (4) $39.2 million for operating the Capitol power plant, $1 million more than in FY 1999. Increases in these areas are due to salary cost increases.

Library of Congress

Congressional Research Service (CRS). The bill provides $71.3 million for CRS functions of the Library of Congress, $4.1 million more than in FY 1999. The CRS division of the Library of Congress is funded under the congressional operations title. CRS provides research and reference services to members' offices and committees.

Government Printing Office (GPO), Congressional Printing and Binding

H.R.___ provides $77.7 million to print and bind congressional documents (part of the congressional operations account), $3.2 million more than in FY 1999 and $4.5 million less than the president's request. The GPO prints the *Congressional Record*; committee reports; bills, resolutions and amendments; records of hearings; and other documents for Congress.

— Other Agencies —

The measure allocates $738.9 million for other agencies associated with the legislative branch, $37.2 million more than in FY 1999 and $30.6 million less than the president's request.

Botanic Garden

H.R.___ appropriates $3.5 million for the salaries and expenses of the Botanic Garden, $486,000 more than last year and $434,000 less than the president's request.

Library of Congress

The measure appropriates $315 million for the Library of Congress (excluding CRS), $18.4 million more than last year and $2.5 million more than the president's request. Specific accounts include: (1) $250.1 million for salaries and expenses, $18.6 million more than in FY 1999; (2) $11.4 million for the copyright office, a $2.3 million decrease; (3) $48 million for books for the blind and physically handicapped, a $1.2 million increase; and (4) $5.4 million for furniture and furnishings, a $967,000 increase over last year.

Architect of the Capitol, Library of Congress Buildings and Grounds

The bill provides $17.8 million to the Architect of the Capitol to care for and maintain the Library's building and grounds, $5.1 million more than in FY 1999 and $2.1 million less than the president's request. The bill also appropriates $1 million, to be matched by privately donated funds, to preserve and maintain the Congressional Cemetery. The committee fully expects to provide funds to support annual routine care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Government Printing Office (GPO), Superintendent of Documents

H.R.___ provides $30 million for the non-congressional printing activities of the Office of the Superintendent of Documents, $722,000 more than last year and $16.3 million less than the president's request. The Office of the Superintendent of Documents funds the salaries and expenses of GPO, which is responsible for distributing, cataloging, and indexing government publications.

General Accounting Office (GAO)

The bill appropriates $372.7 million for salaries and expenses of GAO, $13.4 million more than in FY 1999 and $14.4 million less than the president's request. The direct appropriations for the GAO contains $1.4 million in offsetting collections derived from reimbursements for conducting financial audits of government corporations.

Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The Appropriations Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote on May 20, 1999.

Other Information:

"Appropriations for FY 2000: Legislative Branch," *CRS Report RL30212*, May 12, 1999; "Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill Fact Sheet," *CRS Report 98-714 GOV*, Jan. 26, 1999; "Panel Stints on Legislative Branch Bill," *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, May 15, 1999, p. 1141.

Heather Valentine, 226-7860

Education Land Grant Act
H.R. 150

Committee on Resources
H. Rept. 106-132
Introduced by Mr. Hayworth on January 6, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 150 on Wednesday, May 26, 1999. The Rules Committee is scheduled to meet on the bill at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25. Additional information on the rule and potential amendments will be provided in a *FloorPrep* prior to floor consideration.

Summary:

H.R. 150 authorizes the Agriculture Secretary to convey Forest Service land for educational purposes under certain conditions.

Specifically, the bill allows the secretary to convey up to 80 acres of National Forest System land for use by public or publicly funded schools for a nominal payment. The secretary must determine that the conveyance will serve the public interest, and that the land to be conveyed is not needed for the purposes of the National Forest System. Any conveyance does not include a transfer of mineral rights, and the interest in the conveyed land will revert to the federal government if the recipient attempts to transfer it or use it for anything other than educational purposes. Finally, the secretary must notify applicants within 120 days of applying on a final determination regarding the conveyance, or provide an explanation why the matter has not been determined.

Congress has a long history of allowing the public to use federal land. With the 1954 Recreation and Public Purposes Act (RPPA), Congress authorized the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell or lease land to state and local governments, as well as qualified non-profit organizations, for public uses such as building schools, parks and fairgrounds, and monuments and municipal facilities.

Several western communities, however, are surrounded not by BLM land, but Forest Service land, which is not covered under the RPPA. For these communities, private land upon which to build schools is rare and, when available, exorbitantly expensive. Congress has addressed this problem by authorizing land transfers on a case-by-case basis, but to do so for every landlocked community would be cumbersome.

Costs/Committee Action:

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 150 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the bill could result in a loss of offsetting receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any such effects will total less than $500,000 each year.

The Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote on April 28, 1999.

Heather Valentine, 226-7860